

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 5

**MONDAY, MAY 16,
2022**



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**FIRST THURSDAYS
RETURN
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AMERICAN STUDIES AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

2021-2022 NEWSLETTER



Indiana University Dedicates Memorial, Issues Apology for Ban of Japanese American Studies during World War Two, and Establishes Fund for Students

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>>New AMST Faculty



Olga Rodriguez-Ulloa

Dr. Rodriguez joins American Studies as Assistant Professor from Lafayette College, where she served as an assistant professor in Spanish. Dr. Rodriguez-Ulloa earned a PhD from Columbia University in Latin American and Iberian Cultures. She is working on a book, Sadistic Cholas: Sex and Violence in Contemporary Peru. Her research interests include race and feminist theory, Indigenous, Latinx and Latin American studies, visual culture, and popular music. At IU, she is excited to soon teach a course about punk

rock from a global perspective.

Colin Johnson

American Studies welcomed Colin Johnson to core faculty this year. Colin has a joint appointment in Gender Studies as Associate Professor. Dr. Johnson earned his PhD in American Studies from the University of Michigan. He has published extensively including his book Just Queer Folks: Gender and Sexuality in Rural America (2013). His research interests are history of gender and sexuality in the United States, queer theory, feminist theory, and LGBT studies.



<< New AMST Faculty

Aleshia Barajas



Aleshia Barajas is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society and a Visiting Assistant Professor in the American Studies Department at Indiana University. She received her PhD from Yale University and is currently working on a book manuscript introducing an other-than-linear conceptual framework that challenges our current binary—here or there—understanding of the US-Mexico border and quotidian border-crossings. This work is based on three years of ethnographic

field research at four ports of entry in Baja California/California and Sonora/Arizona, as well as her own personal experience crossing the border every day to attend school in the US. Her research has been generously supported by the Ford Foundation. Aleshia will be joining American Studies as Assistant Professor in August 2023 after she completes her CRRES fellowship.

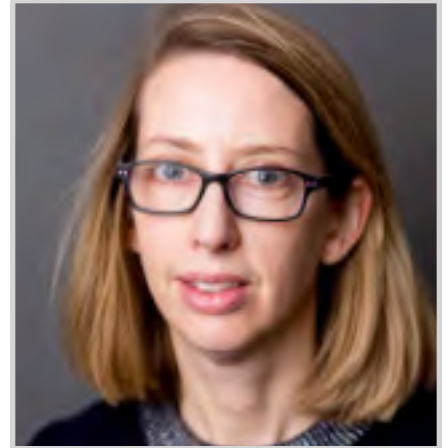
Eunice Lee

Eunice Lee joins American Studies as Assistant Professor. She is currently completing her dissertation at the University of California San Diego in literature with a critical gender studies specialization. She is working on a book, Digesting the Empire: Embodying Life beyond Militarized Circulations across the Pacific Ocean, which argues that people and communities in and around the Pacific Ocean both physically and metaphorically digest circulated waste materials to survive beyond the dispossession and slow violence of US empire and its military in the modern era.



>>Summer 2021: DC Fellowship- AMST Associate Professor Phoebe Wolfskill

In summer 2021, Phoebe Wolfskill received a Paul Mellon Visiting Senior Fellowship through the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery of Art in



Washington, DC. Phoebe used this time to conduct research and begin writing her next book, *Photography, Painting, and the Early Twentieth-Century Black Subject*. This book considers the interrelationship between Farm Security Administration (FSA) photography and social realism of the 1930s and 1940s in their respective attention to broadening visual portrayals of African Americans. This photographic and artistic work, though varying in motivation and theme, heralded the multifaceted and often ambiguous Black subject in the turbulent period linking the Harlem Renaissance and the Civil Rights Movement. While in DC, Phoebe researched early-career photography and social realism by artists Ben Shahn, Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, and Charles White. This included digging into the archives of each of these artists at the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Archives of American Art, as well as studying works of art in storage. Viewing an artwork in storage is often more exciting than viewing in a gallery; Phoebe's visual research included studying a 1940 painting by Romare Bearden in an emergency bunker built in the 1950s. Perhaps the greatest perk of the fellowship was the ability to connect with scholars, curators, and librarians working within the academic and artistic bounty of Washington DC.



>>Undergraduate Recognition

Junior Abby Carmichael

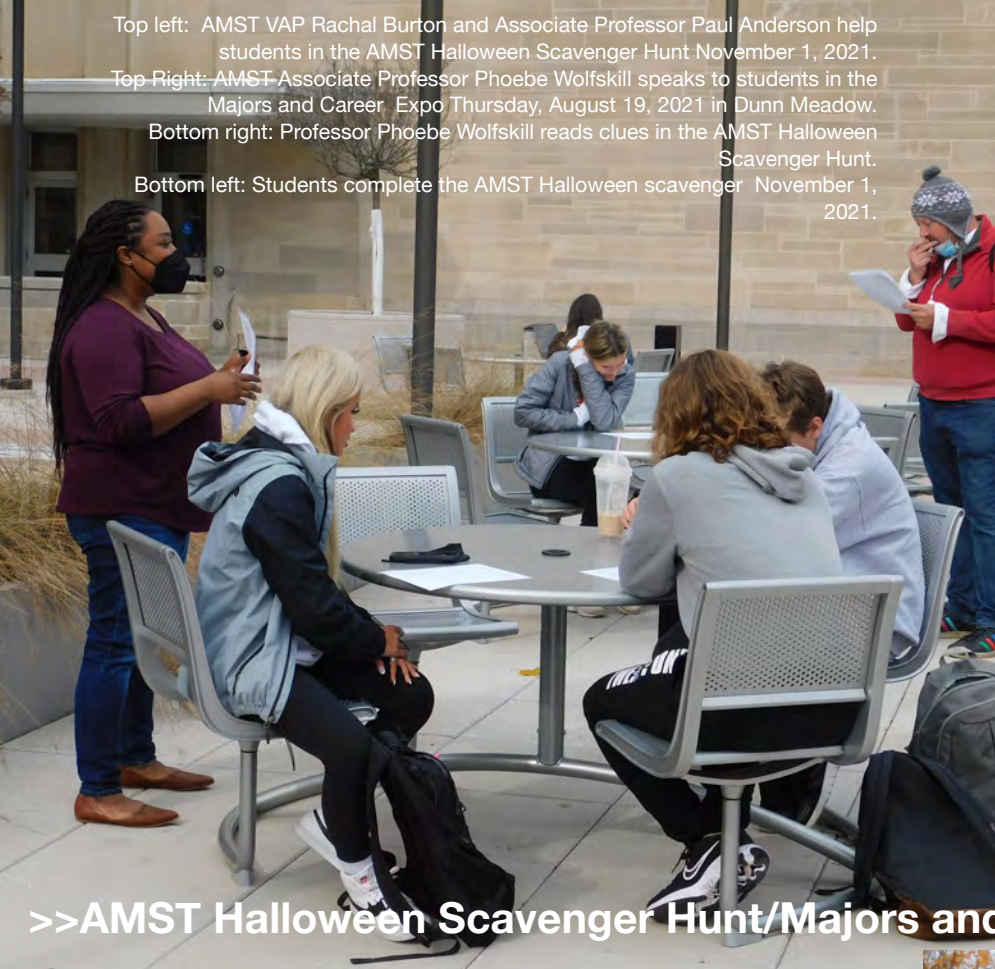


The Department of American Studies is thrilled to announce that Abby Carmichael (she/her), a current junior majoring in American Studies and media advertising and minoring in Spanish and political science, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa (ΦBK). As one of our most gifted students, this distinction came as no surprise. Alongside her academic excellence, Abby's extracurricular activities include

editor and designer for the Indiana Daily Student and a senior internship with the College of Arts and Sciences' Themester program. Abby notes that her years at IU have engaged and challenged her in surprising ways both in and outside of the classroom. She is honored to be recognized and excited to join the ranks of Phi Beta Kappa's membership. Abby, we are so proud of you and glad you chose American Studies as your major!



Top left: AMST VAP Rachal Burton and Associate Professor Paul Anderson help students in the AMST Halloween Scavenger Hunt November 1, 2021.
 Top Right: AMST Associate Professor Phoebe Wolfskill speaks to students in the Majors and Career Expo Thursday, August 19, 2021 in Dunn Meadow.
 Bottom right: Professor Phoebe Wolfskill reads clues in the AMST Halloween Scavenger Hunt.
 Bottom left: Students complete the AMST Halloween scavenger November 1, 2021.



>>AMST Halloween Scavenger Hunt/Majors and Career Expo



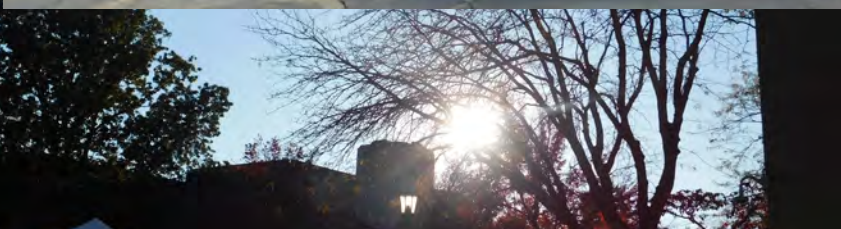
Top Left: Eola Dance, Superintendent of Fort Monroe National Monument, speaks at Alex Lichtenstein, Rasul Mowatt, and Phoebe Wolfskill's planning workshop for their exhibition, "Unmasked: The Anti-Lynching Exhibits of 1935 and Methods of Public Community Remembrance." The workshop was held at Connor Prairie in Fishers, Indiana in September 2021.

>>Anti-Lynching Exhibits

Bottom Left: Guests interact at the planning workshop



>>November 4, 2021 First Thursdays



>>WWII Dedication Ceremony

In November of 2021, Interim Provost John Applegate and IU alumnus Eric Langowski dedicated a memorial to acknowledge IU's denial of admission to Japanese American students during World War II. The memorial stands between the Hamilton-Lugar School of Global and International Studies and the Herman B. Wells Library. It includes a bench and a commemorative plaque describing the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The memorial was part of a larger initiative implemented by a campus-wide committee. The committee, chaired by Karen Inouye, also secured continuing educational opportunities as well as scholarships for IU students facing structural barriers.



This commemorative space is dedicated to the Japanese American students who were wrongly denied admission to Indiana University between 1942 and 1945. Indiana University regrets its failure to meet the needs of these students, for whom college would have meant freedom from prisons in which they, together with 120,000 other Japanese Americans, were forcibly incarcerated. The racial hatred that drove their unjust imprisonment is antithetical to the fundamental values of Indiana University, and this space is intended as a reminder of our shared commitment to social justice and equity.

Dedicated November 12, 2021



>>April 7, 2022
First Thursdays



